



Skills Funding
Agency

Funding Rules and Guidance 2013/2014 for the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service

Addendum

February 2014

Of interest to providers

Funding Rules and Guidance 2013/2014 for the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service - Addendum

Introduction

This document sets out amendments to Funding Rules and Guidance 2013/2014 for the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service (OLASS). These amendments form part of the terms and conditions of the funding agreements and the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans Facility Conditions between the Chief Executive of Skills Funding and all providers of education and training who receive funding from the Chief Executive of Skills or a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan (Loan) Facility.

These amendments reflect the announcement made on 10 February 2014 in the [Skills Funding Statement 2013-2016](#) that apprentices aged 24 and over will no longer be required to take out a Loan.

We will apply the changes to the funding rules from 7 March 2014. They apply to all learners who start on or after that date. Please see separate [communications](#) from us about arrangements for apprentices who took out a Loan before 7 March 2014.

We have identified the amendments by striking through the text that is no longer applicable.

Paragraph	Text
6	<p>From 1 August 2013, any learner who is aged 24 or over at the start of learning and is studying any of the learning aims or Apprenticeship frameworks listed below will not be eligible for funding through OLASS, but may apply for a Loan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Certificates and Diplomas at levels 3 and 4• Programme of A-levels (including AS, A2 and full A-levels)• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Access to HE Diplomas• Advanced level Apprenticeship framework• Higher Apprenticeship framework

34	<p>The tender specification for OLASS included a section on the Access to Apprenticeship pathway. This pathway gives offenders in custody the opportunity to prepare for starting an Apprenticeship when they are released. The help provided by the pathway includes help in applying for an Apprenticeship through the Apprenticeship vacancies system (www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) and training on how to behave at interviews. If the pathway contains elements of an advanced-level Apprenticeship, offenders aged 24 or over may need to apply for a Loan.</p>
59	<p>The maximum Loan amounts for learning aims and Apprenticeship frameworks financed through a Loan are published on our website.</p>
89	<p>Offenders must meet the standard eligibility rules set out in the Further Education Loans Regulations 2012. Offenders must also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have the right to stay in the UK after completing their sentence; • not be subject to a deportation order; • have been sentenced and not be on remand; • have their prison governor's approval to study the learning aim or Apprenticeship framework the Loan will fund; • be studying their learning aim or Apprenticeship framework with a provider in England who has a Loans facility from us; and • be within six years of their release date.
92	<p>Loans can be used to fund the following types of publicly funded provision, as set out in the Funding Rules 2013/14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of A-levels, including AS, A2 and full A-levels (up to a maximum of four) • Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Access to HE Diplomas • Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Certificates and Diplomas at levels 3 and 4 • Advanced-level Apprenticeship framework • Higher Apprenticeship framework (see note ⁴ below)

⁴ Note - We do not fund 'prescribed higher education' (for example, a degree or a Higher National) which is eligible for HE student support.



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